

Message Text

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44

ACTION AID-05

INFO OCT-01 AF-04 ISO-00 PC-01 USIA-04 IO-03 INR-09 DODE-00

AGR-03 INT-01 COME-00 SWF-01 FDRE-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

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P R 070922Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8633

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NDJAMENA 2603

AFDROUGHT

E O 11652: NA

SUBJ: R/R GRAIN TO CHAD: CONTRACT TRANSPORT FROM PORT THROUGH
TO NDJAMENA; POSSIBLE SHIFT AIRLIFT TO NDJAMENA

REFS: A) LAGOS 9057; B) NDJAMENA 2534

1. CONCURRENCE OF GOC DROUGHT COORDINATOR DJONOUMA WAS REQUESTED ORALLY AND IN WRITING OCT 1 CONTRACT FOR NIGERIAN TRUCKS FROM PORT THROUGH TO NDJAMENA. HE EXPRESSED AGAIN COMPLETE UNDERSTANDING AND HIS PERSONAL ACCORD, BUT STATED THAT FORMAL APPROVAL WOULD NEED CONCURRENCE OF MINISTER TRANSPORT. CHARGE NOTED THAT QUICK RESPONSE REQUIRED, WITHIN WEEK IF POSSIBLE, ADDING THAT FAILURE RESOLVE QUESTION MIGHT RESULT IN LOSS ALL OR PART THIS GRAIN TO CHAD.

2. CHARGE AND CDO RAISED MATTER AGAIN OCT 5 WITH ACTING DROUGHT COORDINATOR SECRETARY OF STATE KERIM TOGOI AHMED (DJONOUMA OUT OF COUNTRY TO ATTEND LCBC MEETING). KERIM ALSO EXPRESSED PERSONAL SUPPORT, BUT NOTED CANDIDLY SENSITIVE QUESTIONS DOMESTIC POLITICS INVOLVED. HOPED FOR QUICK RESPONSE WITH RETURN

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DJONOUMA SCHEDULED FOR OCT 10.

3. IN BETWEEN TWO MEETINGS ABOVE, EMB RECEIVED DELAYED TRANSPORT FIGURES FOR MAIDUGURI TO NDJAMENA FOR SEPTEMXSR. TOTAL OF 5,028 TONS TRANSPORTED, OF WHICH 3,508 TONS BY CHADIAN TRUCKS, 1,036 TONS BY NIGERIAN TRUCKS, AND 484 TONS BY USAF. OF TOTAL TRANSPORTED, 4,422 TONS CONSISTED FOOD FOR DROUGHT RELIEF, 240 TONS FLOUR, 312 TONS SUGAR, AND 54 TONS GLUCOSE. THUS SEPTEMBER, DESPITE SOME RAIN, WAS RECORD MONTH FOR TRANSPORT, NEARLY TWO AND A HALF TIMES AVERAGE PRECEDING RAINY SEASON. AS OF SEPT 29, TOTAL 5,490 TONS EMERGENCY DROUGHT RELIEF SUPPLIES REMAINED MAIDUGURI, PLUS 32 TONS COMMERCIAL GOODS (GLUCOSE). SPOILED GRAIN SHOULD OF COURSE BE SUBTRACTED. THUS, WITH ADDITIONAL KING GRAIN AIRLIFT PLANE, AND SAME QUANTITY SURFACE TRUCKS AS AVAILABLE IN SEPTEMBER, CURRENT STOCKS MAIDUGURI COULD BE CLEARED BEFORE END OCTOBER.

4. WITH BUILD-UP STOCKS NDJAMENA, CHARGE REQUESTED ACTING DROUGHT COORDINATOR GIVE URGENT CONSIDERATION EXAMINE POSSIBILITY OPERATING AIRLIFT FROM NDJAMENA RATHER THAN MAIDUGURI AS SOON AS LOCAL STOCKS SUFFICIENT. OPERATING FROM NDJAMENA WOULD SIMPLIFY PROCEDURES FOR BOTH KING GRAIN PERSONNEL AND GOC. KERIM AGREED, STATED WOULD HAVE STAFF CHECK ON STOCKS AND PRESENT RATE OF FLOW, AND WOULD LET US KNOW AS SOON AS THESE SUFFICIENT PERMIT AIRCRAFT LOAD AT NDJAMENA.

5. COMMENT: FIGURES PARA 3 WILL BE USED BY CTT AS ARGUMENT AGAINST EXPANDING TONNAGE PERMITTED BE CARRIED INTO NDJAMENA BY NIGERIAN TRUCKS.

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